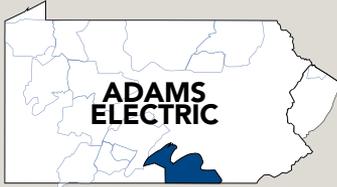




Adams Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Adams Electric Cooperative, Inc.

1338 Biglerville Road
P.O. Box 1055
Gettysburg, PA 17325-1055
1-800-726-2324

Gettysburg District

1380 Biglerville Road
Gettysburg, PA 17325

York District

200 Trinity Road
York, PA 17408

Shippensburg District

10 Duncan Road
P.O. Box 220
Shippensburg, PA 17257

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Monday through Thursday
7 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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Guest Column



Business as usual

By Mike Feathers, *Operations Manager*

IN THESE days of phrases such as pandemic, social distancing and community spread, “business as usual” is a welcome expression. All of us at Adams want to reassure you that we are still conducting business as usual to the best of our ability in order to afford you the level of safety and reliability you have come to expect from us.

We are delivering safe and reliable electric service while keeping our line crews safe during the COVID-19 crisis. First, we staggered start times for our crews so no more than half of the workforce in each of our districts is at our facilities at any one time. Our employees are abiding by the state order to wear a mask while inside our buildings, traveling in vehicles with others, or within 10 feet of others or shared tools.

These preventive measures and more are being taken to make sure our service to you remains unchanged. Our crews continue to connect new electric services. Routine maintenance issues are addressed and corrected, and above all, outages and emergencies are restored with the same sense of urgency and commitment that has become our standard.

Our right-of-way program is also moving forward. We are in the seventh year of a more comprehensive clearing program, and the benefits of this approach are evident with each severe weather event. Events that historically would have had our crews working for a couple of days straight now are usually dealt with in less than 24 hours. Your cooperation with this program is paramount to its success.

We are also in the process of scheduling annual inspections that help us to maintain our equipment. Osmose will soon be starting the annual inspection of approximately 10% of our system’s utility poles, this year in the Gettysburg District. Notification postcards will be mailed to members in the specific areas of inspection, as we have requested Osmose personnel not to initiate direct contact with our members unless necessary.

Our aerial inspection will be running simultaneously to our pole inspection. We expect to patrol our critical line feeds in the Shippensburg and York districts, plus all lines in the Gettysburg District. We rotate this inspection by district, and we will fly as often as the weather allows until we complete our overhead review.

Finally, our annual infrared scan has already taken place on apparatus and substations in our three districts, and the few “hot spot” issues that were found are being fixed. Social distancing requirements make it challenging to get our drone pilots together to further their training, but later in the year, our pilots will be out on the lines implementing yet another resource to maintain the level of reliability our members have come to expect.

So, while business as usual might not be everyone’s favorite saying, we’re pretty thankful we can maintain exactly that, despite all the challenges facing us. Next time you don’t lose power during a storm, consider why, and be thankful for business as usual at the cooperative. 

COMMUNITYconnections

POWERING LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Virus disrupts long Youth Tour family tradition

By Duane Kanagy, *Penn Lines Correspondent*

DUE TO the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the annual weeklong national Rural Electric

Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., has been canceled. Since the 1950s, teens from rural America have been visiting the nation's capital each summer courtesy of their local electric cooperatives and related associations. The students meet with elected officials, explore Capitol Hill, and tour museums and monuments. They learn about government and the impact electric cooperatives have on their communities and the world.

The cancellation hit twins Maggie and Caleb Scarborough of Felton extra hard. The juniors at Kennard-Dale High School were looking forward to participating this year just as their parents, grandparents, an aunt, an uncle and cousins had.

The twins' grandparents, Mary and Robert "Bob" Scarborough of Delta, had served as tour chaperones in the 1970s when Bob worked for Adams Electric. He retired in 1999 after 20 years of service.

"It (the tour) was a wonderful experience for us," says Bob. "I wanted my children and grandchildren to be part of it, too."

Bob and Mary's children, Mary Kathryn, Robert Jr., and Mark, participated in 1984, 1988, and 1990, respectively. Robert Jr. would eventually marry Jennifer "Jen" Piconne, who participated along with her brother and sister, her brother's three children, and her sister's two daughters. Co-op members Robert Jr. and Jen are the parents of Maggie and Caleb.

"I heard about Youth Tour and thought it was an amazing thing," says Caleb, who was looking forward to going behind the scenes at the Capitol, something not everyone experiences.

"I was upset that it was canceled,



TOURING FAMILY: Maggie and Caleb Scarborough, pictured here with parents Robert and Jen, were looking forward to continuing a long tradition set by grandparents, parents, aunts, uncles, and cousins of going on the annual Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. The weeklong tour, held each June, was canceled this year due to concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic.

but it was reasonable considering the circumstances," he adds.

"It's been a family tradition," Maggie says. "I heard them talking about their experiences and I thought how great it would be to go. I was really looking forward to what is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I wanted to meet new people from all over, and I wanted to see the historic sites. That would have been fun."

"We've seen the monuments and everything as a family before, but Jen and I were able to see things behind the scenes on Youth Tour," Robert notes. "I wanted our kids to have that opportunity."

Robert's friend from high school, Jason Lowe, was his roommate on the 1988 tour. They were roommates in college and Jason was best man at Robert and Jen's wedding.

"I have a million memories of Youth Tour," says Robert. "It was my first chance to see things outside my local area."

Jen recalls touring the White House and the Oval Office, something that is no longer possible after the 9/11 attacks.

"We went to the top of the Washington Monument and visited the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier (in Arlington, Virginia)," she recalls. "I remembered you could hear a pin drop. I thought, 'Wow, I'm getting to see all these things,' but it was a different world then. I wanted to make sure Maggie and Caleb were healthy to go on Youth Tour. I even rescheduled the removal of their wisdom teeth so they could go."

That now is small consolation for Maggie and Caleb. 🌞

Smart thermostat options

Comparing the market's smartest, most popular

HEATING and cooling costs account for around half of a user's energy bill according to the U.S. Department of Energy. So, when it comes to reducing energy use and cutting home energy costs, the most impact can be made by programming the thermostat. The right thermostat settings could yield energy savings of 8-15%, and new technology is making it easier than ever to achieve those settings.

Smart thermostats are Wi-Fi-enabled and may be controlled remotely through a tablet, smartphone, or voice control. Some models use multiple sensors to monitor temperatures in various parts of the home for more balanced heating or cooling, track user temperature preferences, and use the data to optimize your heating and cooling schedule. Some are designed for complex multi-stage systems that will control heating, cooling, dehumidifier, and ventilation systems.

If you're interested in controlling your thermostat with your voice or an app, or in being hands-off and letting it learn your habits, you should consider a smart thermostat. To narrow your choices, factor in smart features, price, and attributes that matter most to you, such as color, size, or style, and make sure the chosen product supports your HVAC system.

The Nest Third Generation Learning Thermostat and Ecobee4 are the most

popular and sophisticated devices in this category. Both devices are usually priced around \$250, but consumers can easily recoup their money in energy cost savings.

There are many similarities between the two thermostats. Both can be adjusted via computer, tablet, smartphone, Google Assistant or Amazon Alexa device (the Ecobee4 even has a built-in Alexa-enabled speaker). And both thermostats can interact with other smart devices and utilize geofencing — using your phone's GPS to determine if you're home, then automatically adjusting the temperature. Nest's geofencing works with multiple phones, while Ecobee supports just one phone. Ecobee makes up for this with its more sophisticated sensors.

The Nest and Ecobee offer for purchase remote sensors that allow the thermostat to take readings from any room throughout your home and adjust the temperature accordingly. This can be an advantage if your thermostat is located near a draft or in direct sunlight. The Ecobee's sensors go one step further with occupancy sensing, which notices if there is movement in the house, in order to override geofencing if the primary phone user leaves the house and someone is still there.

While many of the features are similar, there are a few that are notably different and can help you determine which is right for you.

Nest, powered by a rechargeable battery, is a learning thermostat and automatically learns your schedule. When you begin using Nest, it makes a few assumptions and creates a baseline for its schedule. As you adjust



ECOBEE

WIFI-CONNECTED: Smart thermostats, like the Ecobee model shown here, are Wi-Fi-connected and can be controlled through your smartphone, tablet, or voice.

the temperature up or down, Nest records it, and after a week, learns your schedule and the temperature settings you prefer. From then, it continues to learn and respond to your adjustments. Nest also records 10 days of energy use data that shows you a visual of the times your system turned on and off during those 10 days. Nest also sends a monthly email report that includes a summary of your energy use compared to previous

months and other Nest users.

Ecobee must be hardwire installed, utilizes a touch-screen and can analyze HVAC data for 18 months. All temperature and motion data from the thermostat and sensors is recorded, and can be accessed online by the owner to help you monitor total energy use, how the weather influences your use, and how your home efficiency compares to other users in your area.

The two thermostats also can connect with various energy devices in your home. Ecobee recognizes dehumidifiers and ventilators, and Nest recognizes heat pumps and auxiliary heat.

For those looking for a smart thermostat with fewer bells and whistles, the Honeywell Lyric T5+ is one of the market's most popular, priced around \$135. While it can't sense your presence or learn your schedule, it does have the geofencing feature and can interact with other smart-home devices, such as turning on lights when you arrive or leave home.

Whichever fits your lifestyle and preferences, a smart thermostat is a good investment that can help you save energy and money in a more convenient way than ever. 🌞



NEST

AUTOMATIC LEARNING: The Nest thermostat, powered by a rechargeable battery, is a learning thermostat and automatically learns your schedule.

NEWSworthy

NOTES FROM AROUND YOUR COOPERATIVE

Co-op annual equipment inspections underway

EACH YEAR, Adams Electric Cooperative inspects approximately 10% of its utility poles for damage, decay and reliability. This year's inspection began in mid-May in Abbottstown and then will move through the following service areas: Brush Run, Lake Meade, East Berlin (the Adams County side), and Lake Heritage.

In light of the current national health crisis as it relates to the COVID-19 pandemic, Adams Electric's management has asked the inspecting contractors from Osmose Utility Services Inc. to alter their normal protocol and refrain from knocking on each member's door to announce their presence on your property the day of the inspection.

Instead, if your electric service extends from any of these distribution points to a utility pole on or near your property, you should receive a postcard approximately one to two weeks before

It is our hope that this change in protocol will lessen the likelihood of any unnecessary physical contact, with respect to social distancing, between our members and contractors during these difficult times.

Once an inspector is on-site, you may see digging taking place at the base of the utility pole, and possibly identification markings placed on the poles. You will also see white trucks and contractors in uniform.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the cooperative at 1-800-726-2324.

In addition, the co-op will be initiating its annual aerial inspections this summer.

Helicopter patrols will be conducted by Pine Bottom Aviation. The crew will consist of a pilot and one lineworker from the district under review.

Critical line feeds in Gettysburg, Shippensburg and York districts will be inspected. Gettysburg will receive a comprehensive line review as well. This process can take two to three months depending on weather.

According to Mike Feathers, manager of operations, the crew will fly an average of six to eight hours a day when conditions are appropriate. We will try to avoid flying over congested areas and hovering over agricultural operations.

If you happen to see a problem with the power lines or equipment,

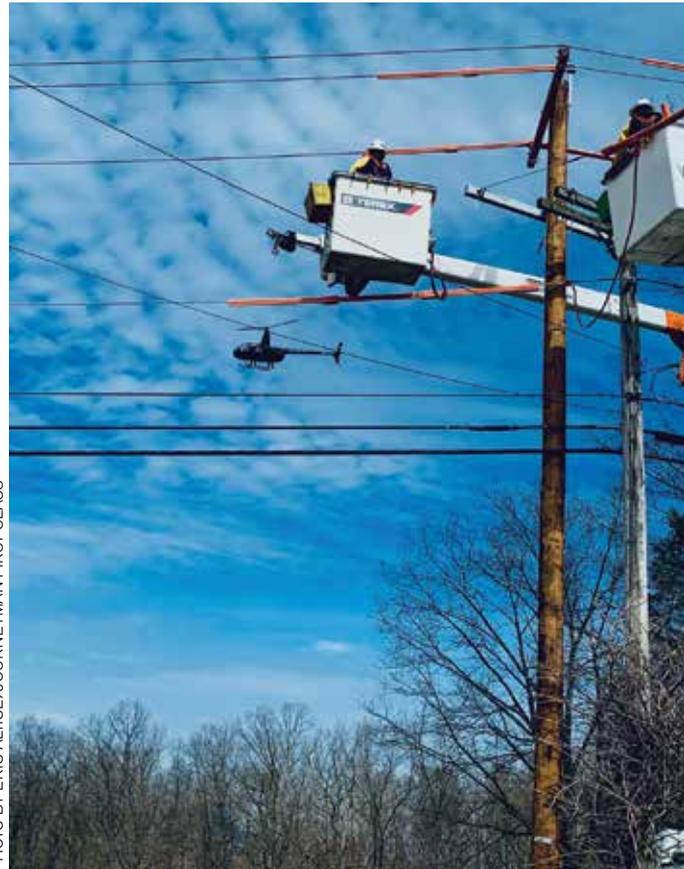


PHOTO BY ERIC ALTICE/JOURNEYMAN FIRST CLASS

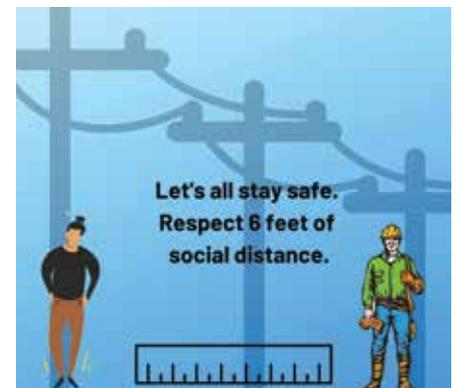
SKY TRACK: In 2019, York District line crew members on the ground repairing service along Davidsburg Road in East Berlin caught sight of our helicopter crew on patrol.



POLE TEST: An Osmose Utility Services Inc. crew member inspects poles and treats the bottom of the pole with a safe chemical solution.

inspection takes place. We also plan to post reminder notifications on the co-op's website, adamsec.coop, and social media sites when the contractor crew moves to its next location.

never attempt to access or correct the situation yourself. Instead, report any problems immediately by calling 1-800-726-2324. ☀



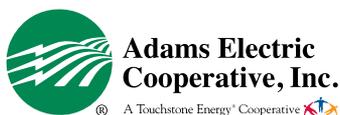
LET ADAMS ELECTRIC HELP WITH YOUR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION EXPENSES!



\$1,000 college continuing education scholarships are available to Adams Electric adult members with their name on an account. Go to the co-op's website, adamsec.coop, and select "Scholarships" under "My Education." Then click on "Adult Scholarships."

Adult scholarships are not available to college students who reside with their parent-members.

Applications must be submitted by July 31, 2020.



**APPLICANTS
MUST APPLY ONLINE
THRU ADAMSEC.COOP**

For more information, contact Sarah Frank at sarahf@adamsec.coop or 1-800-726-2324.

Money for scholarships comes from unclaimed Ownership Rewards, not from rates.